# TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

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| **TUSLA Identifier:** | TU2015MH166 |
| **Name of Service:** | Scallywags Playgroup & Afterschool Care |
| **Address of Service:** | 210 Millbrook, Johnstown<br>Navan, Co. Meath |
| **Email Address:** | scallywagsplaygroup@hotmail.com |
| **Name of Registered Service Provider:** | Ms Catherine Keenan |

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| **Type of Service Registered:** | **Part time** | ✓ |

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| **Date of Inspection:** | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |

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| **No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:** | **AM** | 10 | **PM** | |

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| **Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:** | Family Resource Centre<br>Commons Road<br>Navan, Co. Meath |
| **Inspection undertaken by:**<br>**Title:** | AM Cunningham<br>Early Years Inspector |

| **Areas which were the subject of this Inspection** | | |
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| **Governance** | **Health Welfare and Development of Child** | **Safety** |

**Authority to Inspect**

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

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| **Conditions If Applicable** | |

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| **Description of Service** | Scallywags Playgroup is established since 2004, in a converted room at the back of the registered provider's own home. The service provides sessional, part-time childcare for children aged 2 years to 6 years. The service caters for 12 pre-school children and operates a sessional service from 9.00am – 12.00 midday and children can avail of parttime hours until 13.50pm each weekday. The afternoon session is not in operation due to Covid 19. A school aged service is operating from 14.00hrs until 18.00 hours. The registered provider has two services based in the Navan area. |
| **Premises** | The Early Year service consists of one care room with sanitary accommodation and an outdoor play area. |
| **Staffing** | Three staff members are employed in the service. The registered provider works between the two services in Navan. |
| **Methodology** | Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well- being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety and well-being of children attending such services is upheld.<br><br>The findings on inspection are based on;<br>• Information obtained through examination of documentation<br>• Direct observation<br>• Discussion with relevant staff<br><br>This inspection was unannounced and focused on areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required.<br>The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 health welfare and development of child and regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.<br>The Inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.<br>The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body. |
| **Acknowledgements** | The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection |

## GOVERNANCE

### Part III - Management and Staff

**Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment**

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that—*

*(a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,*

*(b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*

*(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by—*

*(a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*

*(b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,*

*(c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and*

*(d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.*

*(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.*

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| Compliance Information: | (1)(a)The service has a named person in charge who was present when the inspector arrived to carry out the inspection.<br>(b)A person in charge is always available on the premises, which was confirmed by the staff roster.<br><br>The three staff members files were reviewed.<br>(2)(a) Three references were available from a past employer.<br>(b)Three references for the staff members were from a reputable person.<br><br>(c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available for all staff members.<br>(d)Police vetting was available for the staff member who had lived outside the state for more than six consecutive months.<br><br>(4) The three staff members held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework. |

| Part III - Management and Staff | |
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| **Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels** | |
| *(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.*<br>*(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied*<br>(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—<br>a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times | |
| Compliance Information: | (1) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.<br><br>(2) The adult/child ratio was correct.<br>Two staff members were present with 10 pre-school children (aged between 2 years and 11 months and 4 years and 10 months). Six children stayed on for parttime hours.<br>The registered provider arrived in the service at 11.30am approximately.<br><br>(8) The registered provider ensured there were at least two adults always present on the premises, confirmed by staff attendance and documentation. |

| Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service | |
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| **Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child** | |
| *(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that—*<br>*(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child.* | |
| Compliance Information: | **Basic Needs of the Children:**<br>• The children brought their own packed lunches with them to the service. On the day of inspection, the children enjoyed sandwiches, a variety of fruit and yogurt for their lunch. Parents provided a second snack for the children who were attending parttime.<br>• The children were observed to use the bathroom independently and support was provided as required.<br>• The inspector observed all staff members interacting with the children in a respectful manner.<br><br>**Physical and Material Environment:**<br>• Low level shelving was available in the care room which children could assess to select paly materials. |

| Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service | |
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| **Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child** | |
| | • Some books were provided on low level shelving to support the children's language development and provide the children with choice based on their interests.<br>• The enclosed outdoor play area to the rear of the premises was available which included a climbing frame and sheltered area was available. Ride on toys were also available, a house with steps and slide. |
| Non-Compliance Information: | **Basic Care need of the Children:**<br>1. Children were not offered outdoor play although the day was favourable.<br>2. The age range for the room was 2 years 11 months and 4 years 10 months, the younger children were expected to carry out tasks/activities the same as the older children. Therefore, some activities were adult lead e.g., some children were happily engaged in activities, and they were called to do colouring and expressed they wished to finish their activity however staff still requested them to leave the activity.<br>**Physical and Material Environment:**<br>3. Floor space at the library area was taken up with shelving units and it was difficult for children to access the library area.<br>4. Areas of interest in the room were poorly developed e.g., the doll house had no support equipment, the rest area was overcrowded with shelving units.<br>5. Toy containers were not labelled by picture to assist children select and replace items of interest.<br>6. The outdoor areas of interest were poorly developed e.g., the kitchen had no support materials, and there was overstocking of chairs in the sheltered area which reduced available play space. |
| Corrective and preventive action submitted by the registered provider: | **Corrective Action**<br>1. Outdoor play daily (weather permitting).<br>**Preventive Action**<br>Staff to roster an outdoor play time.<br>**Corrective Action**<br>2. Staff advised to let children complete tasks before moving onto the next one. Possibly have two options for age and stage of development.<br>**Preventive Action**<br>More child led play activities.<br><br>**Corrective Action**<br>3- 4. Area has been rearranged, new mats purchased, dolls house removed.<br>**Preventive Action**<br>Do not clutter areas.<br><br>**Corrective Action**<br>5. Put pictures on boxes, although children can see through clear boxes and in the part just removed photos. |

| Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service | |
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| **Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child** | |
| | **Preventive Action**<br>Have pictures on or go back to pre-covid time with no lids on boxes.<br><br>**Corrective and Preventive Action**<br>6. I have removed extra chairs (there due to planned inspection the following day). Play materials are brought outside to enhance kitchen area. |
| Summary Comment: | The response from the registered provider has detailed actions taken to improve choice and the physical layout of the pre-school room to promote the development of children attending. These have been accepted and will be reviewed at the next inspection. |

| Part VI - Safety | |
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| **Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child** | |
| *A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.* | |
| Compliance Information: | The inspector viewed the following infection control measures undertaken in the service to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of the children.<br>**Infection Control:**<br>• Staff were aware of symptoms of Covid-19 and the procedure to follow if a child or adult becomes symptomatic.<br>• There was a designated isolation area with personal protective equipment available if a child or adult felt unwell or developed symptoms of Covid-19.<br>• Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available for the children and staff to support hand washing practices. The children washed their hands after going to the toilet before they ate.<br>• Information in relation to the symptoms of COVID-19, social distancing and self-isolation guidance was on display at the entrance to the service.<br>• Windows were open in the pre-school room throughout the session to increase ventilation as a means of reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19.<br>• The children's packed lunches, supplied from home, were refrigerated on arrival to the service which reduced the risk of bacteria growth in perishable food items.<br>• Appropriate personal protective equipment including disposable aprons and suitable disposable gloves were available in the service. |

| Part VI - Safety | |
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| **Regulation 25 - First Aid** | |
| *(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.*<br>*(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children—*<br>*(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and*<br>*(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.*<br>*(c)* | |
| Compliance Information: | (1)The service provided evidence that staff members trained in first aid for children were available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.<br><br>(2) (a) & (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available. |

| Part VI – Safety | |
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| **Regulation 26 - Fire Safety Measures** | |
| *(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—*<br>*(a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and*<br>*(b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises*<br>*(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises* | |
| Compliance Information: | (1)(a) A written record for the completed monthly fire drills was available on the premises. The last fire took place on the 15th October 2021.<br>(b) A record was available demonstrating the number, type, and maintenance of the firefighting equipment on the premises. The firefighting equipment was serviced on the 11th March 2021. A record was available of the smoke alarms serviced on the 24th August 2021.<br><br>(4)A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the entrance of the service. |